

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Allegheny
Copy

NA-S&PF Field Office, Delaware, Ohio 43015

REPLY TO: 5230 Evaluation

November 21, 1968

SUBJECT: Progress report on evaluation of rate of deterioration
of white ash (Fraxinus americana L.) on the Allegheny
National Forest



TO: The Record

Introduction

Study areas of white ash were examined according to a working plan for evaluation of rate of decline of white ash on the Allegheny National Forest designed by T. Craig Weidensaul (1965). The plan was initiated for salvage operations which would be needed when the process of decline was completed.

Methods

In 1965, Mr. Weidensaul had marked and numbered 200 trees in five stages of decline as described in Tegethoff and Brandt's publication (1963). His field data sheets included data on D.B.H., tree age, dieback class, and appearance of leaves, twigs and stems. In 1967 S&PF personnel examined 50 of these trees and in 1968 examined 195 of the trees, entering the same data.

Results and Discussion

An average change of 0.56 dieback class per tree, or 0.28 per year per tree, was estimated from changes in the 195 trees, approximately evenly divided among the first four classes at the beginning of the study. At this rate, a healthy ash tree in one of the two areas chosen for the study would die in a little over 14 years. It is not known whether conditions are the same throughout the forest or whether they would remain the same in the study areas in future years. Final data, scheduled to be taken in 1971, will give a more complete evaluation of the rate of decline of ash in this area.

References

Weidensaul, T.C. 1965. Working Plan for Evaluating the Rate of Deterioration of White Ash (Fraxinus americana) on the Allegheny National Forest. Region 7 Southern Zone, Forest Insect and Disease Control, December 27, 1965.

Tegethoff, A. C. and R. W. Brandt. 1964. Ash Die-back in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, 1963. Plant Disease Reporter 48 : 974-977.

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